

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:**

Claims 1, 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Osamura et al (U.S. '000, hereinafter "Osamura") in view of Abe et al (U.S. '234, hereinafter "Abe"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art and there must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Applicant submits that the combination of Osamura and Abe fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. For example, Applicant submits that the combination fails to teach or suggest a plate ground electrode being arranged at one end of a tubular housing in a radial direction of an axis and having an end surface confronting an outer circumference surface of a first bar discharge member along the axis connected to the central bar electrode to generate spark discharge between the end surface of a second discharge member connected to the plate ground electrode and the outer circumference surface of the first discharge member connected to the central bar electrode. That is, the combination fails to teach or suggest a second discharge member having a surface confronting the outer circumference surface of the first discharge

**KANAO**

**Application No. 09/893,422**

**October 20, 2003**

member. This feature is supported by, for example, the exemplary embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1 of the application which shows a discharge member 42 having a surface confronting the outer circumference surface of bar discharge member 32. In even more detail, the above feature is supported by, for example, a ground plate electrode 40 arranged at one end 12 of a tubular housing in a radial direction of an axis and having an end surface 41 confronting an outer circumference surface of first bar discharge member 32 along the axis connected to central bar electrode 30. Spark discharge is generated between the end surface of second discharge member 42 connected to plate ground electrode 40 and the outer circumference surface of first discharge member 32 connected to central bar electrode 30.

In contrast, Osamura discloses a spark plug having a surface of a discharge member (element 6 in Fig. 2) which does not confront the outer circumference surface of the central electrode (element 5 in Fig. 2). Abe fails to remedy this deficiency of Osamura. In particular, Abe discloses a spark plug having an end surface of a ground electrode (element 3 in Fig. 3) which does not confront the outer circumference surface of the central electrode along the axis (element 6 in Fig. 3) as claimed. Accordingly, even if the teachings of Osamura and Abe were combined as proposed by the Office Action, the combination would not have taught or suggested all of the claimed limitations.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 2 and 7 are not “obvious” over Osamura and Abe and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Osamura in view of Abe and further in view of Yamaguchi et al (U.S. ‘103, hereinafter “Yamaguchi”). Claims 5 and 6 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Osamura in view of Abe and further in view of Yamaguchi. Since claims 3-6 depend at least indirectly from claim 1, the comments above regarding Osamura and Abe apply equally to claims 3-6. Yamaguchi fails to remedy the above described deficiencies of Osamura and Abe and thus Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

**KANAO**

**Application No. 09/893,422**

**October 20, 2003**

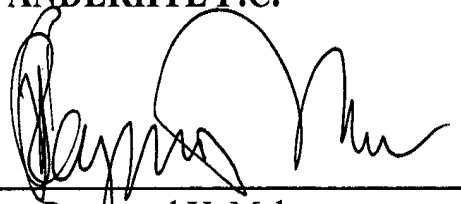
**Conclusion:**

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Y. Mah', written over a horizontal line.

Raymond Y. Mah

Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714

Telephone: (703) 816-4044

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100